

Round 5

25.05.08

vs. GRFA (Home) Draw (2-2)

The div 1 reserves played round five at our home ground, princes park. We seemed to dominate in the first fifteen minutes from the kick-off, most of the ball being played in our half. We were razzled in an instant when one fast ball played down the wing was taken on by two of Geelong's fast strikers who caught our defence off guard and launched a lofted shot at goal that was impossible to save.

Minutes later, Justine Marum saved us by presenting in position with a clear shot at goal, and launched the ball high to the top of the bar – from the backline it almost looked like it would miss and go straight over, alas it went into the goal, unstoppable. With the score levelled, Geelong continued sending forth play to their strikers, who seemed impossibly fast for our defence, pushing us to run harder and faster than has yet been necessary in this competition. On a few occasions we did not manage to stop the opposition's strikers breaking through our defence, luckily Michelle Tate, our goalkeeper came forth every time to stop Geelong from scoring.

In the second half we scored a second goal early on – the ball was played into the box and Alex Gerner took a sharp shot rolling the ball on the ground too fast for the goalie to stop. We were one up, with great relief. Geelong continued sending their strikers running down, we felt the pressure in defence and could not keep up when they scored again.

We continued trying to fire back, Sophie Walsh ran at pace down the right wing time and again, too fast for Geelong's defenders, crossing the ball into the goal square each time but we were unlucky and did not score. Both teams began laying mounted more pressure into securing the game. In defence we took every measure to stop Geelong, there were some fouls and a free kick awarded due to a handball (by myself!) just outside the box. Luckily, Geelong did not score from any shot they fired. This pressured play continued on to the final whistle, the score 2-2, a draw. We all felt incredibly exhausted, and lucky.

Rebecca Ryan